Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Anna Karina Svarstad was born on March 24, 1909, to parents of families who homesteaded close to the James River near Stratford, South Dakota, prior to statehood; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Anna began her teaching career in a one-room school house in Grant County at the age of 19. Books were scarce, and she had to fire up a potbelly stove for heat after walking a mile to the school from the home of a farm family she lived with; and,

Whereas, At the age of 60, Anna received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern State College, and taught fifth grade most of her teaching career; and,

Whereas, Anna was married to Stanley J. Hicks for over 50 years, to that union one son, Irl, was born, and her life was further blessed with four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Anna currently lives at the Spruce Court assisted living facility in Britton, South Dakota, and will observe her 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and family gather on March 22, 2009, to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper as Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 24, 2009, as

ANNA HICKS DAY

in South Dakota, and I join her friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State